Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSF-01 OES-03

OMB-01 FEA-01 /117 W

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R 141640Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5714

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR EFIS IC US

SUBJECT: PM SAYS FISHERIES ISSUE COULD UNDERMINE DEFENSE ${\bf ARRANGEMENT}$

1. ON EVE OF ICELAND'S IMPLEMENTATION OF 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT, PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON ISSUED LATES ICELANDIC WARNING THAT FISHERIES ISSUE COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR US DEFENSE PRESENCE HERE.

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2. HALLGRIMSSON TOLD VISITING CINCLANT, ADMIRAL KIDD, YESTERDAY

THAT QUESTION OF US DEFENSE PRESENCE WOULD AGAIN BECOME FOCUS OF ATTENTION HERE IF FISHERIES DISPUTES WITH UK AND/OR FRG HEATED UP. TWO ISSUES ARE LINKED IN PUBLIC'S MIND, SAID PM, ADDING THAT ICELANDERS WOULD TEND TO QUESTION NEED FOR DEFENSE AGAINST MILITARY THREAT IF COUNTRY FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO PROTECT ITS ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

- 3. MEANWHILE, EXTENSION OF ICELAND'S FISHING LIMITS TO 200 MILES TAKES EFFECT TOMORROW, AND NO PROGRESS IS EVIDENT IN EFFORTS TO REACH NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED. MORE THAN MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS WITH BRITISH, AND FOLLOW-UP SESSION HAS NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED. UK AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER, TOLD CHARGE YESTERDAY THAT HE HOPES FOR DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON NEXT WEEK. AT THIS PACE, CHANCES ARE SLIM OF WORKING OUT NEW TERMS WITH UK BEFORE CURRENT ONES EXPIRE NOVEMBER 13. THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRG ON HORIZON.
- 4. WITH EXTENSION NOW AT HAND, THERE IS GROWING INTEREST HERE IN QUESTION OF ENFORCING NEW LIMITS. FISHERIES MINISTER MATTHIAS BJARNASON'S CONCESSION ON TELEVISION LAST WEEK THAT ICELAND COULD NOT PHYSICALLY KEEP FOREIGN VESSELS OUT OF NEW ZONE TOUCHED OFF BRIEF FUROR, ESPECIALLY FROM COMMUNISTS, WHO DEMANDED BJARNASON RESIGN FOR DISPLAYING SUCH WEAKNESS. COAST GUARD OFFICIALS, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME OBJECT OF MUCH PRESS ATTENTION, HAVE AVOIDED SPECULATION ON MATTER OF OVERALL ENFORCEMENT, WHILE EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION IN FACE OF WHAT THEY PREDICT WILL BE INEVITABLE ENCOUNTERS AT SEA.

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Message Attributes

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